



NORWICH BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES' COMMISSIONERS
&
SEWER AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF NORWICH
REGULAR MEETINGS

January 27, 2026

The Regular Meeting of the Norwich Board of Public Utilities' Commissioners and the Sewer Authority of the City of Norwich was held on Tuesday, January 27, 2026, by Teams and in the 2nd Floor Board Room of Norwich Public Utilities (NPU), 16 South Golden Street, Norwich.

Item 1. The Board Meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m. by Chairman Ashon Avent.

Present: Chairman Ashon Avent, Vice Chairman William Warzecha, Secretary Stewart Peil, Commissioner Gerald Martin and Commissioner Robert Staley.

NPU staff in attendance were General Manager Jeff Brining, Steve Sinko, Mary Lou Rychling, Laura Huren, Larry Sullivan, Shayleen Alfieri, Brian Hedler, Chris Riley and Simone Oliva. Also in attendance were Kevin Brown from Norwich Community Development Corporation (NCDC) along with Board members from the Leffingwell Inn.

NPU staff joining through Teams were John Covey, Michele Addobbo-Ware, Brenton Terry, and Kyle Cioffi.

Item 2. Fifteen Minute Public Comment Period.

Former Mayor Peter Nystrom made brief comments to express his appreciation for the commitment and hard work by NPU during his time as Mayor of Norwich.

An NPU residential customer, Joy Williams spoke to express her concern with her recent NPU bills. NPU will follow up with Ms. Williams to discuss her concerns and offered to have her meter examined.

Item 3. Approval of the Minutes of the Special Board of Public Utilities' Commissioners Meeting and Sewer Authority of the City of Norwich, held on November 3, 2025, and the approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board of Public Utilities' Commissioners Meeting and Sewer Authority of the City of Norwich, held on November 18, 2025. Secretary Warzecha identified three minor edits to the minutes of the meeting on November 18. Motion to approve the minutes, as amended, by Commissioner Staley, Seconded by Secretary Peil. Unanimously approved.

Item 4. Neighborhood Assistance Act

GM Jeff Brining announced NPU's recent \$150,000 in tax credit contributions through the State's Neighborhood Assistance Act (NAA) to the Leffingwell Inn and Eastern Connecticut Housing Opportunities (ECHO). Board Members from the Leffingwell Inn, Robert Ladd and JoAnn Merolla-

Martin expressed their appreciation for the \$100,000 contribution in support of their energy-efficiency project and provided an update on the work that will be funded through the contribution.

Item 5. Update from Norwich Community Development Corporation. President, Kevin Brown provided an informative presentation on the considerable accomplishments of NCDC in 2025 and plans for 2026. Discussion followed. Informative.

Item 6. Information and Updates provided to the Board in advance of the meeting:

Financials: Brief discussion, Informative.

Leadership Team Update: Brief discussion related to the painting of the LNG tank with questions responded to by Steve Sinko.

Customer Service Dashboard: Brief comments. Informative.

Item 7. CMEEC Report. Secretary Peil provided an update from the last meetings of November 20 and December 18, 2025. Informative.

Item 8. Economic Development Committee Update. The Committee meeting scheduled for January 2026 was canceled.

Items 9. Strategic Presentations

Budget Update: Laura Huren reviewed the upcoming budget schedule and the Cost of Service Study that will take place over the next several months. Discussion followed. Informative.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Update: Larry Sullivan presented an update on the construction at the plant, noting that construction is nearly 60% complete. Discussion followed. Informative.

Underground Update: Brian Hedler presented information on several recent incidents that were addressed by the Gas, Water, and Wastewater Divisions over the past two months. Discussion followed. Informative.

Community Impact Report: Chris Riley provided an overview of the recently released 2025 report. Discussion followed. Informative.

Item 10. Actions – No actions required.

Item 11. Executive Session.

To Discuss Confidential Trade Secret & Commercially Valuable Confidential or Proprietary Information Not Subject to Inspection or Public Disclosure Pursuant to Section 1-210[5] and 7-232a of the CT General Statutes. This information is commercially valuable, confidential, and proprietary and is not public disclosure, pursuant to Public Act No. 98-212; and, To Discuss Personnel Matters of an Employee(s) and/or Public Official, pursuant to Chapter 14, Section 1-200 (6) (A) of the CT General Statutes.

Vice Chairman Warzecha, Seconded by Commissioner Martin, made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:12 pm. Unanimously approved. General Manager Brining asked Steve Sinko, Mary

Lou Rychling, Chris Riley, Laura Huren, Shayleen Alfieri, and Larry Sullivan to stay for the Executive Session.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:47 p.m. No votes taken.

Item 12. Other Business – none.

Motion made by Vice Chairman Warzecha seconded by Commissioner Staley, to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 p.m. Unanimously approved.

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, February 24, 2026.

Attest:

Stewart Peil
Secretary